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L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO SECURES JAIL FOR BUS COMPANY OPERATOR FOR ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his office has secured a jail sentence and fines against the owner of a bus company found illegally transporting children without proper liability insurance and in vehicles not yet inspected for safety by the California Highway Patrol.

Danyelle Butler, 32, the owner of Dandy Lion Transit, was convicted of eight counts of illegally transporting passengers without the required authorization of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and one count of failing to maintain and provide maintenance records to the California Highway Patrol (CHP), following a seven day jury trial. Judge Carlos Velarde today sentenced Butler to 30 days in jail, 36 months of probation, and a \$1,000 fine. Butler was also ordered to divest ownership of all commercial vehicles currently in her possession and was admonished not to operate unless fully licensed by the PUC.

Separate investigations by the CHP and the PUC found that Dandy Lion Transit employed several school buses to take school age children on field trips across Southern California, including repeated trips for the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica and Jordan High School. While each bus transported on average 60 persons, none of the passenger buses used by Dandy Lion Transit had the \$5,000,000 in liability and property damage insurance required by law.

In addition, inspectors found evidence demonstrating that the company had transported Jordan High School students to Disneyland on Senior Grad Night in a bus that had not yet gone through the CHP's required safety inspection.

Despite an ongoing investigation and pending criminal case, the company continued to have a number of outstanding contracts with other entities. Neither the Boys and Girls Club nor Jordan High School were aware the company was operating illegally.

Results of the investigation were forwarded by the PUC and the CHP to City Attorney Delgadillo's Criminal and Special Litigation branch for prosecution by Supervising Assistant City Attorney Don Kass of the Office's Corruption, Fraud and Enforcement Unit.